

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for washing at least one item, comprising;

a frame having a dome shape when viewed from its end, and a generally semicircular shape when viewed from its side; and

a flow through mesh on the frame which allows washing fluid to freely flow to and from the item being washed;

said apparatus having an opening through which the at least one item to be washed can be placed into and removed from said apparatus.

2. The apparatus claim 1, wherein the frame has an oval shape when view from its bottom.

3. The apparatus claim 1, further comprising a closing apparatus for closing the opening.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein said closing apparatus comprises one of a zipper, a Ziplock® arrangement, and a fabric fastener.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said closing apparatus comprises a zipper, further comprising a pocket

for a zipper pull of the zipper, the pocket being sized, shaped and positioned so that when in the closed position, the zipper pull is hidden, the zipper will remain closed, and the zipper pull will not damage items outside the enclosure.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the frame comprises an endless pocket and a stiffener disposed within said pocket.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the stiffener has a length exceeding that of said endless pocket, so that ends of said stiffener overlap each other within said endless pocket.

8. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the stiffener has a length exceeding that of said endless pocket, and said stiffener is configured so that a first end of said stiffener moveably telescopes within a second end of said stiffener.

9. An apparatus for washing at least one item, comprising;

a frame having an endless pocket;

a stiffener disposed within said pocket, said stiffener having a flexible peripheral shape so that flexing of said stiffener provides a pumping action to assist in circulating washing fluid through said apparatus; and

a flow through mesh on the frame which allows the washing fluid to freely flow to and from the item being washed;

said apparatus having an opening through which the at least one item to be washed can be placed into and removed from said apparatus.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said stiffener has a length exceeding that of the endless pocket, so that ends of the stiffener overlap each other within the endless pocket.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said stiffener has a length exceeding that of the endless pocket, said stiffener being configured so that one end of the stiffener movably telescopes within another end of said stiffener.

• 12. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a closing apparatus for closing the opening.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said closing apparatus comprises one of a zipper, a Ziplock® arrangement, and a fabric fastener.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said closing apparatus comprises a zipper, further comprising a pocket for a zipper pull of the zipper, the pocket being sized, shaped and positioned so that when in the closed position, the zipper pull is hidden, the zipper will

remain closed, and the zipper pull will not damage items outside the enclosure.

15. The apparatus claim 9, wherein the frame has an oval shape when view from its bottom.

16. The apparatus claim 9, further comprising a zipper for closing the opening.

17. A method for washing at least one brassiere having cups, the method comprising:

folding the brassiere so that the cups nest;

placing the brassiere in an apparatus having mesh panels through which water may flow to wash the item;

placing the apparatus in a washing environment;

washing the items in the washing environment.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the brassiere is placed in the apparatus with the convex portion of the cups facing upward.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising:

removing the brassiere from the washing environment;

and

drying the brassiere.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the brassiere is permitted to dry.

21. The method of claim 17, wherein the washing environment is a washing machine.

22. The method of claim 17, wherein the washing environment is a disinfecting or sterilizing environment.

23. The method of claim 17, wherein the brassiere comprises a prosthetic component.

24. The method of claim 17, further comprising washing other items of lingerie with the brassiere.